

10/21/99



**APESANAHKWAT**

## **Chairman Provides Update on Kenosha Project**

For many years the Menominee Tribe has searched for an economic vehicle that would help to improve the quality of life for our people. Despite all of our hard work and accomplishments, there are many programs that are either nonexistent or extremely under-funded. In addition, there are many needs of our members that are still unattended. Since 1994, the Tribal Legislature has worked diligently on the Kenosha Casino Project, and I am proud to say that we have finally embarked upon the final stages of approval.

Putting land into trust for an off-reservation casino is an extremely long and difficult process. Many long hours have gone into this effort and thousands of pages of documentation have been prepared, presented, and discussed. If it were an easy process, then many tribes would have done this by now. We recently received support from the City and

County of Kenosha, we have begun negotiations with our State Officials, and we are in discussions with the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) and NIGC (National Indian Gaming Commission).

Provided that there are no other unexpected delays, we believe that we will have all of our approvals in place within a few months, and we should be breaking ground in the early part of the year 2000. This project would not have made it to this point without your support, and we can all look forward to sharing in the excitement of its success into the next millennium.

As many of you know, it was not my intention to stand for reelection this year. In order for me to see this project through completion, I feel that it is necessary for me to seek one more term. From a personal standpoint, I want to do all that I can to make sure that the becomes a reality for the Menominee People. Paradise Key can provide the Menominee Nation with the economic prosperity that we have sought for many years. The benefits derived from Paradise Key will be used to provide healthcare, social services, educational opportunities, jobs, per capita payments and other benefits to Menominee members both on and off the reservation.

This long awaited opportunity is within our grasp and our people deserve this chance to create a stronger future for themselves and their families. I look to you for your support in the upcoming election. Please help me to make our dreams come true. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or ideas.

Sincerely,

Apesanahkwat  
Honorable Tribal Chairman